ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Hartismere Rural District

FOR THE

Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

EYE:
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For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HARTISMERE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of your District for the period ending December 31st, 1919.

The District comprises an area of 49,199 acres, a population of 11,486 at the census of 1911.

And the following Parishes are within its boundaries:—Aspal, Bacton, Botesdale, Braiseworth, Brome, Burgate, Cotton, Finningham, Gislingham, Mellis, Mendlesham, Oakley, Occold, Palgrave, Redgrave, Redlingfield, Rickinghall Superior, Rishangles, Stoke Ash, Stuston, Thorndon, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Thwaite, Thrandeston, Westhorpe, Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford, Wickham Skeith, Wortham, Wyverstone and Yaxley.

The whole District is Agricultural, and there are no large factories in the area; the character of the country is undulating, well wooded, with small rivers and streams; the northern boundary separates it from the County of Norfolk, and is formed by the river Waveney.

The sub-soil varies from clay to gravel ; in some parts of the District clay predominates, whereas in others, chiefly to the North, gravel is more frequently found.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water in the District is either from public or private wells or from ponds.

The wells are shallow, drawn from surface water just beneath the sub-soil or deep drawn from the chalk ; there are no true Artesian wells in the District.

The water from the shallow wells is liable to surface pollution, and, unfortunately, many of the deep wells have a considerable amount of iron, and are very hard, thus making them, although pure, unsuitable for domestic purposes, such as laundry, etc.

During the year I have analysed 13 specimens of drinking water of which—

6 were satisfactory.
3 of doubtful quality.
4 unfit for drinking.

In the last named, steps have been taken to improve their quality.

Twelve of the public pumps have been put in order during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—117 notifications have been received during the year.

10 cases of Scarlet Fever.
14 cases of Diphtheria.
1 case of Typhoid Fever.
2 cases of Puerperal Fever.
1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
5 cases of Erysipelas.
10 cases of Tuberculosis Pulmonalis.
8 other Tubercular Diseases.
3 cases of Malaria.
5 cases of Measles (households).
11 cases of Pneumonia.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Yaxley.

Thirteen cases of Diphtheria were also removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Two cases of Diphtheria died in the hospital.

With regard to the Diphtheria, two cases occurred in April at Cotton, three further cases in the same parish followed—the only cause I could discover was that a foul pond near the school was in process of being cleansed at the time.

In May an isolated case occurred at Mellis; and it was discovered that the sanitary conditions were defective.

Another case occurred in July at Finningham, and in this case the well required cleansing.

A case also occurred at Wyverstone on October 3rd, followed by a second in the same house on November 2nd, no traceable cause.

In October a case occurred at Occold; at this time a number of sore throats occurred amongst the school children, and the School Medical Officer came over at my request and examined the children, taking swabs, but no other suspicious case was detected.

A case was notified from Norwich Hospital of a child whose home was at Thornham, having diphtheria in the hospital; but I was unable to trace any cause in this District, and am of opinion the child contracted the disease in Norwich.

On November 21st a case was notified at Wortham, but the child had been at Boarding School and had been sent home on account of cases occurring at the school.

On December 15th a case was notified, at Wetheringsett. She had only recently moved into the District, and in my opinion contracted the disease before coming into the District.

I have little doubt that the prompt removal of these cases to the isolation hospital helped to prevent a spread of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.—These cases were all of an isolated type and no connection was traceable between them, nor was the source of the contagion discovered.

MEASLES.—The Measles outbreak was traced to Eye, where there had already been an extensive epidemic; it began at Yaxley in October and spread to Thornham and Wickham Skeith and Stoke Ash.

In November cases occurred in Brome and Oakley, also traceable to the same source.

Isolated cases occurred in Cotton and Redgrave in December.

CHICKEN POX.—Owing to doubtful cases of this disease and other cases being diagnosed as Smallpox in the County, it was considered wise to make Chicken-pox notifiable for a period of three months.

As far as your District was concerned no case of Smallpox was discovered; but in February a soldier, who was on leave and returned to his home at Mendlesham, was found to have been in contact with the disease, and was removed to a Military hospital for quarantine; no cases followed.

In July I was asked to see a suspicious case at Mendlesham, and I met the County M.O.H. and it was decided that the case was one of severe Chicken-pox.

Another suspicious case was notified at Redgrave, and I took the same action, and it was decided the case was one of Chicken-pox complicated by impetigo contagiosum.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified, that of an infant at Stoke Ash.

The Public Elementary Schools were closed on the recommendation of the School M.O., as under:—

Finningham	...	Feb. 10 to 24 ...	For Measles.
,,	...	Feb. 24 to Mar. 3...	,, ,,
,,	...	Mar. 3 to Mar. 17	,, ,,
Redgrave	...	Feb. 17 to Mar. 3	,, Coughs and Colds.
Mellis	...	Feb. 10 to Mar. 3	,, ,, ,,
Mendlesham	...	Feb. 18 to Mar. 3	,, ,, ,,
Wortham	...	Feb. 21 to Mar. 10	,, Influenza.
Thornham	...	Feb. 24 to Mar. 3	,, ,,
Wyverstone	...	Feb. 26 to Mar 17	,, ,,
Yaxley	...	Oct. 20 to Nov. 17	,, Measles.

CASE OF SEPTIC MENINGITIS.—A case of this disease occurred at Occold and was sent to Ipswich Hospital; the authorities there were unable to admit it, and it was removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital as being a suspicious case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

SYSTEMATIC SANITARY INSPECTION.—Your Inspector has made a careful systematic inspection of your District during the year, and has, when necessary, asked me to visit premises with him before reporting to your Council.

Many Nuisances are remedied after he has made verbal notification as to their existence; if this fails, the matter is brought to your notice so that statutory notice may be issued.

Below is appended a summary of the work done in this manner:—

351 Statutory notices issued.
292 Verbal notices made.
97 Privies repaired and cleansed.
5 Privies converted to Pail Closets.
13 New Pail Closets provided.
2 Pail Closets renewed.
8 Houses new drainage provided.
20 Houses Drains repaired and trapped.
2 Urinals provided.
8 Dead Wells emptied and cleansed.
19 Foul Ditches cleared and cleansed.
32 Manure Heaps removed from undesirable places.
3 Premises cleansed.
7 Old Privies removed from undesirable places.
5 Dustbins cleansed.
4 Cases of Overcrowding abated.
2 Cases of improperly kept Swine removed.
40 Houses fumigated and cleansed after Infectious Diseases.
2 Gipsy Vans removed owing to insufficient sanitary accommodation.

The Sewage Tanks at Mendlesham and Palgrave have been cleansed periodically and the ditches kept in order.

The Sewage Works of the Diss Urban Council have been periodically inspected, and have always been in good order.

FOOD SUPPLY.—No action has been necessary with regard to Food used for human consumption. I have received from time to time notices from the Port of London Health Authorities as to unsound food released for cattle feeding, but have not found it necessary to take any action, as there has been no attempt to use the food for improper purposes.

With regard to Meat Supply, there are only three Slaughter Houses in the District which have been regularly inspected and found in order.

There are 16 Bakehouses in your District, none being underground ; all are regularly inspected and found clean and limewashed.

The Collection of Samples of Food under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, is carried out by the County Police.

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING ACT.—The Sanitary Inspector reports that :—

555 Houses have been visited.
270 Subsequent Visits have been paid.
124 Houses have been reported to you.
97 Houses have been repaired.
8 Closing Orders made.
5 Houses repaired after Closing Orders made.
3 Houses Closed by Owners after notice had been sent.
154 Statutory Notices issued.
29 Verbal Notices made.
39 Privies cleansed and repaired,
4 New Pail Closets provided.
1 Privy filled in and a new Earth Closet provided.
3 Old Privies removed from unsuitable places.
3 Houses provided with New Drains.
3 Houses Drains repaired.
3 Houses have had Drains put down to draw off the surface water and counteract dampness.
2 Foul Ditches have been cleansed.

These figures are in addition to the work done under the Systematic Sanitary Inspection.

Besides the Inspector's visits, I have personally visited every village for the purpose of finding how many houses are so defective as to require either replacing or repairs that cannot be undertaken while the house is inhabited.

I have also selected, with your Housing Committee, sites for New Houses in each village.

The Commissioner has inspected and passed sites in Botesdale, Rickinghall, Mellis, Yaxley, Wickham Skeith, Stoke Ash and Mendlesham.

I append a Summary of my Inspection :—

	Total No. of Houses.	No. Unfit.
Brome ...	56 ...	20
Oakley ...	53 ...	24
Stuston ...	41 ...	13
Thrandeston ...	57 ...	12
Yaxley ...	87 ...	20
Mellis ...	108 ..	21
Botesdale ...	83 ...	25
Westhorpe ...	35 ...	7
Finningham ...	77 ...	14
Thornham Magna	46 ...	16
Thornham Parva	23 ...	9
Thorndon ...	111 ...	21
Rishangles ...	29 ...	9
Occold ...	101 ...	27
Redlingfield ...	31 ...	10
Braiseworth ...	23 ...	12
Wickham Skeith	85 ...	12
Aspal ...	29 ...	8
Palgrave ...	165 ...	1
Bacton ...	132 ...	20
Stoke Ash ...	55 ...	17
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	114 ...	32
Thwaite ...	25 ...	11
Mendlesham ...	206 ...	28
Cotton ...	84 ...	16
Wyverstone ...	57 ...	9
Rickinghall ...	102 ...	15
Wortham ...	154 ...	18
Burgate ...	46 ...	11
Redgrave ...	110 ...	11
Gislingham ...	104 ...	13
	2,441	493

Your scheme is to provide 250 New Houses, and I hope that this will enable others to be re-modelled, or two thrown into one so that the whole 493 Defective Houses will be replaced when the scheme is complete.

DAIRY AND COWSHEDS ACT.—The Milk Supply in the District is from farms in the District, and these also supply Milk for the London Market, most of that exported being sent to Stratford.

For the latter purpose, it is necessary that the premises should be registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops Order, 1885.

During the year 15 premises have been registered, 3 premises have been closed, and the total number now registered is 41.

I cannot too strongly impress on all those engaged in the sale of Milk, or who propose to commence such business, the imperative necessity for strict cleanliness, not only of the premises, but also of the workers, the receptacles, and the cows.

I should like to see a far higher standard in this matter in the District.

In two cases, owing to the condition of the yards and premises, and the long distance the workers have to go for washing, I am keeping the premises under special supervision.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—All the Workshops have been inspected, they are as follows :—

18 Steam and Wind Mills for grinding corn.
1 Sewage Farm.
23 Blacksmiths' shops.
6 Carpenters.
4 Wheelwrights.
9 Wheelwrignts and Carpenters.
5 Builders.
4 Builders and Wheelwrights.
3 Plumbers and Painters.
4 Dressmakers.
2 Bootmakers.
2 Tailors.
1 Basket Maker.
1 Brushmaker.
4 Cycle Repairers.
16 Bakehouses.

Two hundred and three Visits have been made, 37 Notices sent, one Notice sent to the Inspector of Factories, owing to failure to affix Abstract of Act.

Ventilation has been provided in one Workshop.

Two Accumulations of Manure too near to premises have been removed.

Two Privies have been cleared and repaired.

BIRTHS.—For purpose of Birth-rate, the population is estimated as 11,017.

The corrected number of Births was 205, being a rate of 17·7, the rate for England and Wales being 18·5 per 1,000.

Births are now notified direct to the County Medical Officer of Health.

DEATHS.—For purposes of Death-rate the population is estimated at 10,576.

The corrected number of Deaths after adding deaths of residents dying outside the District and deducting those of non-residents dying within the District was 153, the rate being 14·4 per 1,000, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 13·8 per 1,000.

The number of Deaths under one year of age was 24, a rate of 117 per 1,000 Births, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 89 per 1,000.

No legal proceedings have been taken during the year.

I have to thank the Council, more especially the Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, also the Sanitary Inspector for their help during the year, in my endeavours to obtain a more sanitary condition throughout the District.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY E. BARNES,

M.D.,LON., M.O.H.

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the Year 1919.

	Causes of Death. (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
	All causes	75	78
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small Pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—
6	Diphtheria and Croup	1	1
7	Influenza	11	13
8	Erysipelas	—	—
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	3
10	Tuberculous Meningitis	1	2
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	3	7
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14	Meningitis	—	—
15	Organic Heart Disease	8	7
16	Bronchitis	6	5
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	5
18	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
19	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	—
20	Appendicitis and typhlitis	—	—
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
21a	Alcoholism	—	—
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	1	1
23	Puerperal Fever	—	1
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever ...	—	3
25	Congenital debility, etc	9	5
26	Violence, apart from Suicide ...	—	1
27	Suicide	1	—
28	Other Defined Diseases	25	22
29	Causes Ill-defined or unknown ...	1	—
	Special Causes (included above)		
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age,		
	Total	18	6
	Illegitimate	2	—
	Total Births	96	109
	Legitimate	86	105
	Illegitimate	10	4
	Population for Birth-rate		11,017
	,, ,, Death-rate		10,576

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1919.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	14	—	2	11	1	—	—	13
Erysipelas	5	—	—	1	—	2	2	—
Scarlet fever	10	—	2	7	1	—	—	3
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Pneumonia	11	2	1	3	2	3	—	—
Puerperal fever	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Measles	52	1	11	34	3	3	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	10	—	—	—	1	9	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	8	—	1	2	1	4	—	—
Totals	117	4	18	58	11	24	2	17

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1919. Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes — Certified	7	3	0	1	11	4	3	3	3	24
All Causes — Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformatns.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	4	2	...	...	6	1	...	1	...	8
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	2	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	5
Other causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	1	6
Totals	7	3	0	1	11	4	3	3	3	24

Nett Births in the year: legitimate, 205; illegitimate, 14.